to Africa', which appeared in 'The Time of India'. While the Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi have invited a business delegation from Uganda, no specific complaint from Ugandan importers against Indian exporters for export of sub-standard quality goods has come to the notice.

However, the following steps have been initiated to ensure export of quality goods by Indian exporters to overseas countries:—

— prescription of quality standards for commodities notified under The Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963;

— recognition of certain private inspection agencies to suppliment the work of quality certification;

— organisation of seminars and workshops to educate the manufacturers and exporters on the methods of maintaining quality including packaging;

— organisation of exhibitions abroad to show quality goods from the Indian industry;

— provision of assistance by Total Quality Management Division already set up in CII to its members on establishing quality related system in the manufacturing process registered under ISO 9000 series.

Measures to reduce Paper Work for Exporters

2428. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the news-item appeared in "The Hindustan Times" of 27th November, 1996 captioned "Exporter has still to fill in 40 document" and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no steps have been taken in the last five months to reduce such paperwork for exporters;

(b) the reasons for ignoring the demands from exporters for less paper work; and

(c) the steps proposed to reduce such needless documentation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Simplification and reduction of documentation being a continuous exercise, it undertakes from time to time keeping in view the changing needs consistent with policy liberalisation and modern information technology.

However, export related documentation is crucial to trade operation for both Government and Trade to monitor and control the movement of goods and to safeguard every party's legitimate interests.

(c) Some of the significant steps taken to reduce documentation include standardising documents to computer acceptable formats, increasing computer based operations in the working of various agencies connected with trade so as to facilitate Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and progessive reduction in licensing and other discretionery controls which will also substantially reduce the need for documentation.

Bilateral Trade between India and Russia

2429. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of steps are being taken to augment the bilateral trade between India and Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether these measures will bridge the information gap between the two countries;

(d) whether Government propose to take similar steps to augment the bileteral trade between India and other countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?